



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter



Number 76. October, 1997.

TORONTO BECKONS!

Every year it's quite apparent that our convention is peripatetic by nature, moving about as it does, and this coming year the move is quite special. Why? Simply because we're going beyond U.S. shores to visit our good neighbor to the north, Canada, and in particular, its fair city, Toronto. All signals are "go" for our first foray to the shores of Lake Ontario, where one of the most alluring cities in North America awaits us. Whatever you have in mind, Toronto has on hand, be it wining, dining, sightseeing, sporting, shopping, entertaining, and yes, antiquing, all served up with a distinctive brand of Canadian hospitality. And along with all the attractions Toronto has to offer will be tried-and-true convention programming to delight a scale collector's heart, along with something new to catch your eye. You can count on Get-Acquainted Night; the Silent Auction, followed by Let's Make a Deal; Show & Tell; and a few scale surprises your co-chairpersons, Utz Schmidt and I, are planning. And while we're on the subject of scales, you'll want to know that if you're planning to participate in our Silent Auction, either as a buyer or seller, we've been assured by Canadian Customs that ISASC members will benefit from the latest custom practices that make "life in Canada" for scale collectors quite agreeable. So our advice is: Don't give customs a second thought. Just mark your calendar now to head for the famed Royal York Hotel in Toronto next May 14 to 17, and to consider spending a few extra days taking in the sights and sounds and sensations of cosmopolitan Canada. (Six extra days are yours, if you'd like, at our special hotel rate.) Meanwhile, look through the Toronto brochure enclosed and look for your convention packet in January.

(over)

CATCHING UP ON THINGS.

Several matters of interest to our members bear reporting, to wit:

** After six years at our present site in downtown Chicago, ISASC is being evicted as of November 30 so that the nine floors of our building comprising office space can be converted to hotel rooms. (These days, Chicago hotels seems to be doing better than Chicago office buildings.) We're planning to relocate close by, but at this writing we're still shopping. It's certain, of course, that our address will change, but our phone/fax may not, and until we know and can tell everyone in our January mailing, feel free to use our current address and phone. Mail and calls will be forwarded to us for a decent length of time.

** 1997 was to have been an election year for ISASC directors. However, a concurrent action step called for revising our bylaws in order to preserve the entity of ISASC as originally founded and at the same time sanction the autonomy of ISASC/Europe. In addition, a good number of other bylaws changes were previously approved by the directors but as yet have not been formalized. All of the foregoing is presently underway or planned for the near future, but it's all happening at a slower pace than envisaged. Consequently, your directors have agreed to extend their terms of office for one year -- through 1998, to retain current officers for that same year, to hold an election in 1998, and to start the new term of directors and officers as of January 1, 1999. That having been reported on, we're pleased to tell you that everything is in order with ISASC.

** Last July, we sent our Newsletter to one and all, and totally forgot to mention our new Index, which had been mailed separately to each member a month prior. It's not that you needed us to tell you to expect something you'd already received. It's just that we'd have liked to tell you just how invaluable a resource the Index is, particularly this latest updated version. It's current through 1996, and we urge you to use it often, and always when you have a question about anything having to do with scales and weights. From all we hear, everyone who uses it once quickly gets in the habit of using it often. And while it's upper-

most in our mind, our deep thanks to our EQM editor, Diana Crawford-Hitchins, for a superbly professional job in compiling its contents over a several-year period.

** Still on the subject of the Index, you'll recall that it was accompanied by an order form for back copies of EQM, and the response from our members was more than gratifying. We received a number of orders going back to the very beginning of EQM, and when we filled those orders, we found ourselves obliged to reprint a number of back issues no longer in stock. That's been done, and we can invite you with impunity to order whichever copies you want and assure you that you'll get them post haste. And for that particular service, we can thank member Steve Ginsberg, who's been shipping all our library orders for a good number of years, with nary a slip-up. Steve's one of our true-blue volunteers to whom we're very much in debt.

** Another development which may have escaped your attention has been the "new look" for EQM, i.e., black ink instead of brown for the inside pages. The change took effect with the previous issue (July '97) and the latest one enclosed, with the intention to continue it that way if black ink enhances the contrast in the photographs and makes them appear sharper. It may turn out to be less than a significant difference, but now that we've told you about it and you have a chance to make a comparison, take a moment to call or to send us a note telling us your reaction.

ON A SAD NOTE.

This past summer we learned with deep regret that we had lost Bernie Esterman of Rockville, MD, a devoted ISASC member of long standing and a staunch friend. Bernie seemed to have his health under control when we saw him at the L.A. convention, but things took a turn for the worse and he succumbed not too long afterwards. Our heartfelt condolences to his widow, Marcia, also a good friend of ISASC and many of its members.

FISCAL GOINGS ON.

** This past May, Jan Macho tendered his resignation as ISASC's treasurer, after serving our Society in that post for 10 years (or more!) in an exceptional manner. At the time, he agreed to continue on as an ISASC director, and, going beyond the call of duty, submitted a candidate for treasurer in the person of Ed Konowitz, a long-time member and CPA by profession. Eddy brings the requisite skills and experience to the job, and the directors endorsed his interim appointment until he joins a slate of officer nominees to serve in 1999 and beyond. Welcome aboard, Eddy, and as for you, Jan, you're not going to get away without our proper thanks for the truly valuable services you've provided us over the years. Just you wait!

** Joe Lenorovitz, convention chairman for our conclave last spring in Los Angeles, provided us with a financial statement for the affair which reflected a net profit of \$2,099.73. In recent years, we've striven to keep the event in the black, and Joe deserves our commendation for holding to that financial goal.

MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS.

** Leonard Nosal writes to tell us he's restoring an early Toledo store scale (Style #3) which bears graphics he's not seen before (eagle with wings spread and ribbon in its beak; block-letter decal reading "The Toledo Computing Scale Co."). He's hoping to find someone with a Toledo scale with these graphics well-preserved so that he can obtain photos of them to make replacement decals. To contact him, refer to our directory for his address and phone.

** Len Nosal writes (again) to give us some valuable information about restoring scales. Here's what he says:

I recently came across some information which may be of interest to other society members who, as I do, like to restore scales to original condition. One limitation has always been the difficulty reproducing whatever original graphics may have been on the scale

(eg. company name, emblems, etc.). A new product from a company called Labco may provide an economical way of doing this. They have introduced a paper, suitable for use in color copiers and laser jet printers, which has a coating of the adhesive used on water-slide decals. What this means is that if I can find a scale with a well-preserved example of the graphic I need to reproduce, I can take a picture of that graphic, and use the photo on a color copier to print the image onto this paper. The paper must then be coated using a clear spray acrylic such as is available in any hardware store. When that dries, the image can be cut out and applied as a water-transfer decal.

Alternatively, the image may be created on a computer using a graphics program, and then printed onto this paper using a laser-jet printer. (Unfortunately this cannot be done using inkjet printers because the ink is not permanent.) The company's addresses are... Labco, 27563 Dover, Dept. BR, Warren, MI 48093, and at <http://www.mich.com/-labco/> on the internet.

** Fred Traxler writes to suggest that EQM publish articles about repairing scales and where to look for parts. Ruth Willard, associate editor of EQM, responded in part by listing several ways that members can individually find such information:

1. Use your Membership Directory to find members who are potential sources of help or information. These include antique dealers, scale company owners, and scale service firms. But don't stop there. Look at members' descriptions of their collections and contact those who have the same kinds of scales you collect. Several members offer a repair and parts service but do not mention this in the directory. Many collectors repair their own scales or find reliable repair men. Some may have found mechanics' handbooks, etc. that they will photocopy for you.
2. Use your EQM Index to identify the articles listed under repairing scales and replacing parts. There are not many, but

one of these may pertain to your kind of scales. Every collector needs Michael Crawforth's three-part article on cleaning scales. Order the back issues containing the articles you want.

3. Order a copy of the ISASC Bibliography of publications about scales. Go through it carefully, marking the titles of interest to you. A reference librarian can help you request copies from the sources listed in the bibliography and suggest places to look for other titles. Visit any technical, scientific, or trade libraries near you; you may find handbooks on scientific instrument repair or, in their periodicals department, copies of Scale Journal (the monthly magazine of the National Scalemen's Association). Check used book stores, thrift shops, antique, collectible, and paper shows, and flea markets for old mechanics' handbooks, scale catalogues, and partial scales to cannibalize.

** Judy Soslau writes to tell us, "I've circulated e-mail addresses to about 20 to 25 members. If anyone wants to add their name to the list, they should e-mail me at: judyloon@aol.com"

** Emil Cohn sends us a news item telling us that the tv show, 20/20, scheduled for August 1 (and since past), will feature host Hugh Downs diving to explore a Byzantine shipwreck at Selimiye (possibly 1,000 years old). Emil goes on to tell us that the show just may display some very old scales found on wrecks uncovered in the same waters. (We watched the show, and although various artifacts, gem-encrusted and otherwise, were shown, no scales were among them. Alas.)

AND NOW...

We've reached the end of our Newsletter and most likely won't be back in touch 'til mid-January. Margie joins me in wishing you a happy holiday season and a peaceful and healthy 1998.

Fraternally,

